The presence of globalization has increased tremendously over the last two decades and in huge leaps and bounds in recent years. This trend of globalization is making an impact of our education system as we speak. More and more we as educators hear about the need to integrate globalization in our lessons and activities just the same as many school districts have begun incorporating this concept into curriculums. So why is the concept of globalization so important anyway? The world we live in today is truly global and the competition is fierce. The importance comes with preparing our students for the world they will face moving forward in their education as they pursue their dreams. So it is our duty as educators to create and expose those types of global concepts in our classrooms.

The question then becomes; how do we create global experiences in the classroom that will prepare students for their futures? In today’s world that is not as difficult of a question to answer as it may have been ten years ago. Prior to that time the tools, funding, and technological know was not as accessible as it is today. The continued growth and development of the internet with the creation of Web 2.0 tools has create many opportunities for us as teachers to do things we could never imagine ten years ago. Then when you throw in the advances of technological devices it is a recipe for a global experience right in the classroom.

With the socio-economic gap growing in our country it is our duty as teachers to bring this new form of learning into the classroom as best we can. Luckily, I work in a district that has made tremendous leaps in the area of technology. I personally have taken advantage of this equipment in my World Cultures classes to create global experiences in my classroom. The Web 2.0 tool; ePals (<http://ePals.com>) is one of several tools that allows me to create a globalized experience in my classroom. ePals is leading the way in collaborative technology through a network of project-based learning that allows schools, classrooms, and individuals to connect in a safe and friendly environment. This site allows students to interact and work with other students from around the world which right from the start creates social interaction between individuals of different backgrounds and cultures. The collaborative environment that is created allows these students to work together on a common task to find a solution to an issue. It teaches them cultural awareness, team work, networking, and most importantly allows them to grow as an individual and to become better well rounded.

The same goes for most Web 2.0 tools; while many of them offer a variety of options I have found that proper integration of other Web 2.0 tools creates a much better learning experience and better prepares students to work with other from around the world, not to mention it offers the ability to meet the needs of different learners by creating other aspects. For example, prior to working with a class from Beijing, China through ePals I would take my students on a virtual field trip to Beijing using Google Earth and let them explore the area, see where they are in relation to China, and to learn about the culture so the students gain perspective into the students from China. I may even go a step further and ask the students to create a glog (virtual poster) through Glogster (<http://www.gloster.com>) representing themselves, their family, and their heritage/culture so they can share with their ePals abroad. I would like the other class overseas to do the same if they had the capabilities to do so.

In essence I reinforce the Web 2.0 tool, ePals with both Google Earth and Glogster, by allowing both end to gain perspective and familiarize themselves with a different people, region, culture, and social experience. My philosophy when dealing with the concept of globalization is you don’t know where you are going if you don’t know where have been. How can my students come to learn about China is they do not know where it is, Google Earth virtual field trip. How can my students come to accept different people and cultures if they do not fully understand who they are and their own heritage, Glogster virtual poster.

In the end it comes down to us as educators. We as teacher must provide and expose our students to the available tools while also being able to understand and utilize the tools during instruction. The end result that many of us would like to see is students responsibly use the tools available to them for their own learning and growth to become better globalized citizens. I believe that ePals, Google Earth, and Glogster together can create a wonderful learning experience that fosters all aspects of globalization.